

Employees, Volunteers, Community Partners, and Friends

NEWSLETTER



Building Walls For Habitat, Building Skills



On May 13th DJJ held a press conference to celebrate the building of walls by DJJ youth for another Habitat for Humanity house.

Many employees will remember that in 2012, DJJ built an entire Habitat House at the Broad River Road Complex and lifted it over the fence. And while this newest project is of a smaller scale, it is perhaps even more important in DJJ's ongoing job training efforts in conjunction with Habitat.

"We want to let people know that our work with Habitat isn't just a one-time build," said Director Margaret H. Barber. "When we said that we intend to keep using these construction projects as an ongoing part of our job training for youth, we meant it."

The walls for the four bedroom house were built within the Youth Industries Building, a major construction center on the Broad River Road Complex. The framed walls will be used in a Habitat house that is being built in a Columbia neighborhood.

Sam Bower, carpentry teacher for the Job Apprenticeship Program, oversaw the build. "We taught these kids everything that we would teach anyone else on a construction site, framing a house," he said. "I wanted them to be able to walk out of here and be able to do the real thing on a construction site anywhere."

The walls for the house were built in such a way that they could easily be removed from the interior of the Youth Industries Building and transported to the final construction site. "We built the entire frame in the building," noted Bower. "But it was designed so it would be easy to take down each wall and then reassembled into the frame on site."

Numerous youth from BRRC, wilderness camps, and others under DJJ supervision participated in the build along with volunteers, and many of them cited the valuable skills they learned along the way. When asked if he felt that he had learned any valuable skills, one young builder replied "Well, I learned how to build a house. I think that's pretty valuable."

The agency plans to continue teaching valuable skills to our youth and building for Habitat. Already, additional Habitat building projects are planned for the future. "This work will continue," said Director Barber.

Upcoming Events

May 31st (8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.) –
 DJJ Employee Recognition Day
 Bill Rogers Community Connections Center

September 5th -7th –
 "Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service"
 Activities across the state

DJJ's 2012 United Way Campaign A Lesson in the Power of United Giving



Chilli Cook-Off winners, left to right, Brandy Jeffcoat, second place, Cheryl Brisbane, first place, and Clara Rentz, third place.

Last August, DJJ Director Margaret H. Barber, assembled the agency's 2012 United Way Campaign Coordinating Committee and gave them an ambitious and generous charge: "Let's shoot for 100% participation in this year's United Way Campaign. If everyone will give something, regardless of the amount, we will clearly demonstrate our belief and support of United Way in South Carolina." So began the "Giving Campaign" that ran from August 28 through November 30, 2012.

The goal of 100% giving participation" stimulated fun and creativity within the DJJ family. Supervisors

came up with incentives in their individual work areas, such as allowing certain dress code parameters on certain days for those who contributed. Events were held such as silent 'auctions' of student made goods, and a "Chili-Cook Off," with all proceeds going to the United Way. The "Cook-Off" allowed some of DJJ's finest and "funniest" cooks to share their secret chili concoctions with the staff and visitors, which raised several hundred dollars for United Way. Cheryl Brisbane won the Chili Cook-Off, with Brandy Jeffcoat and Clara Rentz coming in second and third respectively.

The Coordinating Committee members were Vontresa Samuel, Mary McMillan, Velvet McGowan, Ronny Grate, Sherri Hill, Loretta Bookard, Mike Hogan, Gaye Leonard, Sue Cunningham, Stephanie Thomas, Rose Mary Richardson, Sandra Brown, Catina Martin, Charlene Cohen, Kathy Crotts, Reggie Cooper, James White, Linda Chandler, Rick Wessinger, Max Dorsey, and Mike Gannon. This is the group that promoted the campaign with enthusiasm, zeal and held out-of-the-box events to increase "giving" among all employees beyond the traditional payroll deductions.

100 percent level of giving

Forty six work areas within the agency reached the 100% giving level for 2012! This achievement was one of the best united giving efforts that "we" have achieved in recent years. DJJ's contributions totaled \$14,045.46, up \$4,000.00 from 2011!

United Way of South Carolina greatly appreciates DJJ's commitment to United Way and showed their gratitude at a Luncheon Campaign Finale at the Bill Rogers Community Connections Center in February for all state agencies. DJJ held its own United Way Celebration at the March 1 Senior Manager's Meeting and recognized all the 100% "giving sites" and the Coordinating Committee for its work during the 2012 Campaign. DJJ's 2013 Campaign will be co-chaired by Rick Wessinger and Andy Broughton.

Director Barber set the tone and goal of the 2012 Campaign and staff responded generously, site by site, employee by employee. Thanks to all who supported United Way's annual campaign to improve the quality of life for all in South Carolina! Let's do more in 2013!

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NEWSLETTER

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Editor

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With contributing writers from across the agency

Staff receiving special recognition from United Way for outstanding levels of giving are:

Palmetto Society Donor: Stacey Atkinson

Crescent Society Donors: Randy Grant, Meda Cobb, Larry Vanderbilt

Carolina Society Donors: Mary McKinney, Joan Squire

DJJ Youth and USC Students “Go Green”

Sustainable Carolina, a student-based group at the University of South Carolina, has partnered with Birchwood School to provide activity-based learning opportunities to DJJ students.

“Through several short courses designed to introduce young people to the principals of ‘green and sustainable practices,’ we hope our youth will gain a new interest and respect for their environment,” said Aloysius Anderson, DJJ’s Job Apprenticeship and Sustainability consultant. Staff at Birchwood School are planning “green” service activities, for which Sustainable Carolina are building curriculums based on the specific activity.

The first “green” activity-based course, *Introduction to Composting*, is a 45-minute session that includes instruction by USC volunteers describing composting and how it can benefit the environment at home, locally, and globally. The second session is a hands-on workshop where DJJ students will assemble composting bins either in the classroom or at an outside area planned for composting.

This is the first of a proposed series of activity-based courses to help DJJ’s students understand their role and opportunity in the ‘green environment.’ Future courses are projected to include recycling, urban gardening, storm water recovery and water pollution, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources.



Students at AMIKIDSPiedmont show teamwork as they build game boards

York G.R.E.A.T. Program Graduates 200 Students

Recently, about 200 elementary students from Oakdale and Old Pointe Elementary graduated from the Gang Resistant Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program offered through DJJ’s York County Office in Rock Hill. The six week program focused on anti-bullying, anger management, respect, and being a good citizen through a series of class presentations and active skits in which students were encouraged to role-play. This was the first graduation for the program that is in its second year.

The graduation ceremony took place at Old Pointe Elementary and was attended by school staff, representatives from the Rock Hill school district, 16th circuit solicitor’s office, and York County DJJ staff. The graduation speaker was Jimmy “Moose” Wallace, a retired Northwestern High School Football Coach. Wallace, a member of the South Carolina High School Coach’s Hall of Fame and three time state champion, spoke on what it takes to be successful. “Be in school everyday and on time. From 8:30 to 3:30, you train your mind; from 4:30 to 6:30, you train your body. But you spend your whole life training your heart,” he said.

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“You spend your whole life training your heart”

Combined, the two Rock Hill schools have reached more than 500 students through the program. Joe Burton and Vanessa Williams of the York County office co-facilitated the program's eight classes and are currently conducting two classes for middle school students. Successful G.R.E.A.T programs also have been completed at the York One Academy and a summer program through the Boys and Girls Club.

At the end of the ceremony, Williams challenged the students to exceed expectations saying, "You each know how to be GREAT, but now you have to go out to your homes, communities, and schools and be GREATER to each other!" Feedback from students, families, and teachers has been positive across the state with a call to bring the G.R.E.A.T program into as many classrooms as possible.

AMIkids Piedmont Students Compete in Winter Challenge Events

As the sun rose on a Monday morning, 10 students and 4 staff members from AMIkids Piedmont had already begun their journey to success at the AMIkids Winter Challenge Event. At 5:00 am that morning, they started to head to Hudson, Florida to compete with other AMIkids programs in athletic, academic and creative competition.

"Our students have prepared for the last several weeks and we just wanted to be able to compete and have a great time as a team" stated staff member Quintin Cook, who is the team's coach.

Compete and having a great time is exactly what the team did. The team came home early Friday morning with medals around their necks and hoisting trophies in the air.

"We just wanted to be able to compete and have a great time as a team"

The team won first place in First Aide in which the team must splint a "victim" and carry him to safety. The gold medal for Group Challenge was also taken by AMIkids Piedmont. In Group Challenge, each student must complete a specific life skill with accuracy and speed. The team also took home the gold medal in the Science Fair in which they were also awarded the Oliver Keller Science Trophy.

The team also took home a silver medal in the Standing Broad Jump and in the Academic Quiz Bowl. "I was proud to get the silver medal in the quiz bowl because we proved to ourselves how smart we really are and that we can do well in the classroom" student Thomas commented.

Mr. Cook also was recognized and received a plaque as an "Outstanding Coach." For their efforts and attitudes throughout the week-long competition, the team was awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy.

DJJ Supports "Man to Man Fatherhood" in Community Basketball Fundraiser

Recently, DJJ's Marlboro County office took part in one of the biggest community events to hit Bennettsville. The Harlem Rockets basketball team came to town to take on the Marlboro All-Stars in an exhibition game that drew over 2,000 smiling faces to Marlboro County High School Gymnasium. The event held by "Man to Man Fatherhood" was a sellout in both admission and concessions.

Man to Man Fatherhood board Member Patricia Henegan stated that she appreciated everything DJJ did to help make the project a success. "Our local DJJ office helped our community in so many ways and we could never thank them enough," she said. "The DJJ staff arrived early to help set up tables, direct children and help with concessions. When we found out that some parents would not be able to afford tickets for the game, DJJ staff stepped up and sponsored tickets for the children to attend and take part in the festivities."

Marlboro County Director Tracey McLeod said she was happy to help the kids in her hometown. "Growing up we always had events to attend in the community," she said. "We want to keep our children active at all times in positive events and teach them to love their community so when they grow up to be productive citizens, they can give back to the next generation."



A few of the Harlem Rockets met with the kids to take pictures and sign autographs before the game tipped off and during the intermission



JCO Graduating Class of March 2013

New JCO's are front row, left to right, Andre Dixon, Najia Barteel, Latorcha Montgomery, Demetrious Washington, Anastasia Eubanks. Back row, left to right, Hayward Jacobs, Daniel Walker, Shaun Tucker, Robert Day, Francis Encarnacion

Basketball League Shows Promise in Williamsburg County

Staff of the Williamsburg County DJJ Office are on the ball - literally! Looking for ways to address the problem of their clients rarely being able to experience competitive sports in middle and high school, mostly due to the stigma of involvement with DJJ, the staff developed a basketball league. They named it the Promise League.

Members of the league take a pledge of success in order to play: "Today is a new day, a new beginning—it has been given to me as a gift and I can either use it or throw it away. What I do today will affect me tomorrow and I cannot blame anyone but myself if I do not succeed."

According to DJJ Williamsburg County Office Director Joe Castle, tournaments are held one Saturday per month. "So far we have teams sponsored by local law enforcement, church groups, the county recreation department, the Boys and Girls Club, sorority group, and of course DJJ," said Castle. "My office staff serve as coaches and referees. We've had a lot of success so far using this as a prevention and intervention tool, and we have seen a significant drop in petty violations since implementation."

The Promise League follows most of the rules and regulations for basketball used by the public schools. Trophies are purchased with funds raised through donations and awarded to the participants after each event, and a three-point and free throw contest add a little flavor to the events. The Williamsburg County Recreation Department allows DJJ to use its gym for

the games at no cost, and Williamsburg Sheriff Deputies provide security free of charge.

Castle summed things up by saying "we are well aware how important it is for DJJ youth to have an opportunity to enjoy the full high school experience, and that the participants seem to appreciate the opportunity to be involved with an organized sports league."



Dr. Elizabeth Swanson, a nurse practitioner at Union Evaluation Center, is pictured with Dr. Larry Eberlin, director of nursing, after a recent presentation before the Executive Management Team on research involving girls and PTSD



The DJJ Bulldogs won their fourth consecutive basketball conference championship on February 7. The Bulldogs played the Saxe Gotha team, defeating them 67 to 25 for the conference win. Congratulations to the team, Coach Tyrone Brown, in the far back right, with staff who supported and volunteered to assist him.

DJJ and Limestone College Trauma Symposium

The Department of Juvenile Justice recently partnered with Limestone College in Gaffney to bring awareness to how traumatized youth who experience family and societal dysfunction, potentially become

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involved in delinquent behavior, and what DJJ is doing to bring about healing and hope to young people who are incarcerated, on probation, or on parole.

This collaborative symposium titled "Trauma...it Hits Everyone!" was designed to inform the audience about the impact of trauma and how it can affect nearly every aspect of life, which is why DJJ is focused on "trauma informed" training. More than 120 participants, including Limestone students, faculty, and staff, along with DJJ staff and other local youth and family serving practitioners, attended the training.

Limestone College Dr. Betsy A. Witt, chairman of the Division of Social & Behavioral Sciences, opened the symposium, followed by DJJ Deputy Director for Community Services Lesa Timmerman, who welcomed the participants on behalf of DJJ Director Margaret Barber, and thanked them for showing their interest in the agency and the impact that trauma can have on others.

Setting the tone for the forum was keynote speaker Kelli Scurry of DJJ's Trauma Services. She provided an overview of DJJ, and explained how trauma can shake the sense of security and safety of young people. She also discussed how everyone at some point in their lifetime likely will be impacted by trauma, and provided the audience with a wealth of information on its affects on many of the youth at DJJ.

Joining Scurry were DJJ Psychologist Dr. Kevin Irmiter, and Limestone Associate Dean/Director of Social Work Jackie Puckett. Limestone senior and criminal justice major Haley M. Case introduced the speakers throughout the symposium. Two victims of trauma addressed the group in a moving conclusion to the presentations, leaving the audience with the knowledge that in spite of trauma there is hope.

One unique aspect of the forum was that Limestone students presented live dramatizations throughout the forum of two fictitious DJJ youth that had undergone trauma. The scenes provided an excellent visualization of what many of the juveniles involved with DJJ have experienced in their lives, including a domestic dispute with audio from a 911 call, an actual arrest by Limestone College Public Safety Officers, and a DJJ office visit. The dramatizations culminated with moving readings from the perspective of the traumatized youth. The readings captivated the audience's hearts with how the

portrayed youth had overcome their traumatic experiences.

In his closing remarks Cherokee County Office Director Terry Hall, said, "It was great to see this collaborative effort with Limestone College and to share valuable information on the topic of trauma."

From the Director of Volunteer Services



I would like to express my sincere appreciation and send a special "THANK YOU" to all volunteers who attended the annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on April 18. It was an honor to be in the presence of such wonderful people who are dedicated and committed to our agency and the youth we serve.

Volunteers' Reminders:

- Please contact the Office of Volunteer Services at (803) 896-9291 or (803) 896-9400 if you are not currently active and would like to become an active volunteer.
- Make sure your volunteer ID badge is always displayed when providing services.
- If you have had your badge five (5) years or longer, contact our office to be recertified.
- Feel free to contact our office to let us know how your volunteer experience is going and/or if you questions or concerns.

Family Focus Celebration

On May 5, Family Focus, a faith celebration that included a worship service with our youth, their parents, staff and volunteers, was held at the Birchwood Chapel. After the worship service, lunch was served followed by an open house for parents at Birchwood School. Speaker for the service was DJJ Chaplain Mark Gilbert who shared his faith testimony in an inspirational message.

The Family Focus celebration is primarily sponsored by the Youth Hope Foundation, which provides literature, resources and selected scholarships for the juveniles. Several members of the DJJ family

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attended to help support the effort to strengthen families through faith

Safer Communities Services at MEC

Safer Communities Ministry recently hosted a three-day religious service at Midlands Evaluation Center. DJJ youth had an opportunity to experience an awesome time of ministry. A group of 35 volunteers from Safer Communities were on hand to share religious services with our youth and to share testimonies.

Spring Fling at DJJ

It was a SPRING FLING! Volunteer Services hosted another fun-filled day of activities, delicious food and fellowship between youth, staff and volunteers May 18 on the Birchwood Campus.

Area churches and volunteers joined together to host a carnival-like day for our youth. All participating youth on Level 3 or above were given an opportunity to enjoy and participate in the festivities. If you would like to volunteer for future events, please contact LaToya Reed, director of Volunteer Services, at 896-9291.

Epiphany Weekend – March 2013

Epiphany Weekend was held recently at the Willow Lane Chapel. The Epiphany experience was shared by 17 DJJ youth, both males and females, who for the first time attended the same sessions, along with 21 volunteers.

The weekend, sponsored by Christian volunteers with Epiphany Ministries, consisted of three days of lessons, prayer, interactive learning, music, and meals. It is no secret that our youth often seek to be a part of this event because of the food that is available during the sessions. However, on Epiphany Sunday participants were affected by testimonies, lessons and support that were given. Each juvenile made verbal commitments to seek guidance from God regarding their future, and to continue to study in prayer to develop spiritually.

Family members were invited to attend the closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Tearful parents and siblings watched as the ceremony of commitment and promise offered additional hope in the lives of our young people. One emotional volunteer stated: "These kids are navigating their way through the detours their lives have taken, but we believe that

they will find their way with God's help."



Capt. Bitsy Cooper-Charles, of the Midlands Evaluation Center, is pinned by her parents, as she is promoted to Major.



Lt. Ulysses Collins is pinned by his wife, right, and sister left, as he is promoted to Captain of Internal Training.



Lt. Kenneth James is pinned as he is promoted to Captain of the Crisis Management Unit.

DJJ Release Authority Overview

In 2006, the South Carolina General Assembly granted the Department of Juvenile Justice the authority to release juveniles indeterminately committed for misdemeanor offenses and all status offenses. The Release Authority became operational on April 1, 2007.

The range of a juvenile's guideline is based on the severity of the juvenile's offense and his/her history of previous offenses. These guidelines range from 1-3 months up to 18-36 months. Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

For FY 11-12, the DJJ Release Authority reviewed 201 cases (96 Administrative Reviews, 100 Panel hearings and 5 Parole Revocation hearings) and released 61 juveniles (a 31% release rate).

The Release Authority Hearings Panel is comprised of three Senior Managers within the Department. Director Barber approves the members of the Hearings Panel who serve on a rotating basis of three members on the Panel each month.

There are two types of review for juveniles being considered for release: Administrative Review and Parole Hearings. An Administrative Review occurs without the juvenile being present before the Hearings Panel. The Administrative Review involves the panel reviewing the juvenile's conduct and progress towards his/her treatment goals. The Release Authority Panel may grant a juvenile's release at this type of review. At a Parole Hearing, the juvenile has the right to appear and the right to provide testimony and documentation. Parents/guardians may appear. Victims may also appear if they so choose or have a statement they have prepared read at the hearing.

Video conferences occur for all juveniles located at Wilderness Camps and other placements. A total of 57 video conferences were conducted in FY '11-'12. The use of video conferencing has benefited the agency and its contract providers in gas and manpower savings. Families of juveniles who have transportation issues have also benefitted by participating in the hearings process via video conferencing at their local DJJ county office.

The Hearings Panel determines conditions for release by reviewing the various reports that are submitted for each juvenile. A majority of the panel members must agree to release a juvenile before they can be released.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release may involve requiring the juvenile to complete special conditions of parole which can include counseling, completion of an aftercare program or community service. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision.

DJJ Dedicates Victims Garden



April 21-27th was National Crime Victims' Rights Week. To honor South Carolina's crime victims, DJJ dedicated a garden in their honor during a press conference on Monday, April 13 at the Spartanburg County Courthouse. The press conference included a ribbon cutting and speakers, including DJJ Director Margaret H. Barber and Junie White, Mayor of Spartanburg. Keynote speaker Marvin Bryant, president of South Carolina Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children, shared with the audience his journey of acceptance and efforts to raise awareness for victims and their families after the fatal shooting of his 21-year-old son, Marcus Patrick Bryant.

Spartanburg County youth under DJJ's supervision worked tirelessly during their spring break to landscape the garden and prepare it for the observance. The garden includes a bench from DJJ's Store of Hope, which was made by our masonry students.

The 2013 Victims' Rights Week focused on New Challenges, New Solutions. DJJ works with victims each day to help them rebuild their lives, and cope with the impact of crime. This garden will serve as a beautiful and peaceful setting for meditating or for

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remembering those who have been impacted by crime.

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet



(From left to right) Latoya Reed, Bernie and Joan Gathers, Director Barber

Recently, DJJ celebrated its wonderful volunteers who give of their time and resources to support our youth. The annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held at the Bill Rogers Community Connections Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and was the largest ever. The evening began with a meet and greet, followed by presentation of awards for volunteers who were

recognized for outstanding service. They are:

- Bernie and Joan Gathers - DJJ Agency Volunteer of the Year
- April Fogle - Broad River Road Complex Volunteer of the Year
- Tom Duarte - Midlands Evaluation Center Volunteer of the Year
- Robert Hammond – Coastal Evaluation Center Volunteer of the Year
- Rosner Gibbs – Upstate Evaluation Center Volunteer of the Year
- Rick Mooneyham – Juvenile Detention Center Volunteer of the Year
- Carolyn Merze – Teen Afterschool Center (TASC Sites) Volunteer of the Year
- Ruth Jackson – Coastal Region Volunteer of the Year
- Andrew McCaskill – Midlands Region Volunteer of the Year
- Dennis Dechant – Piedmont Region Volunteer of the Year
- 100 Black Men, Royal Rangers and Columbia College - Community Partner Recognition
- Maurice Wright – Project Life:Positeen, Inc., Special Recognition

DJJ Promotions & Announcements



The Columbia Council of Neighborhoods presented DJJ's **Community Behind the Fence** its "Community Leader of Excellence" award at its sixth annual awards banquet and Hall of Fame Introduction ceremony on April 25th.

Vontresa Samuel has been selected for the position of Program Monitor in the Community Alternatives Section of the Community Services Division.

The Office of Human Resources has added new employees **Alfredia Boyd** and **Justin Williams** in Employee Relations, **Jennifer Harper** in Class and Compensation, **Veronda Fitzgerald** in Employment/Recruiting and **Angela Outing** as its new HR Generalist.

Yolanda Clyburn has been promoted to the position of Intensive Supervision Officer in Lancaster County.

In the Division of Administrative Services, **Mark Cotter** has been named as Administrative Manager to Physical Plant, Maintenance, and the Dietary Staff. **Dru Kennedy** has been named as Facility Grounds Manager. And **Shawn Powers** has been hired to manage a new area called Business Services.

Dr. Kendra Werden has been named supervising psychologist for the Coastal Region.

Alisa Lindsay-Jones has been hired as Administrative Assistant II for the Deputy Director's office of the Community Services Division.

Jamillah Smalls has been hired as Regional Special Needs Coordinator for the Pee Dee-Coastal region.

PbS Drop-in Extra Mile awards went to the following persons: **Willie Hood, Catherine McKinght, Tina Jacobs, Lacey James, Charles Pompay, Duane Calhoun** all of John G. Richards. The PbS Drop-in awards for Best Dressed Officers this year went to: **Willie Hood, Sytira Sims** from John G. Richards. Best Dressed for Birchwood **Synthia Scipio, Barry Mathews**.

Anthony Roundtree has been hired as the Supervising Psychologist at the Broad River Road Complex in the Office of Treatment and Intervention Services